

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

SUITE 2320 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301
(202) 225-6371
TTY: (202) 226-4410
<http://www.house.gov/science/welcome.htm>

February 16, 2006

Dr. Michael D. Griffin
Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20546

Dear Administrator Griffin:

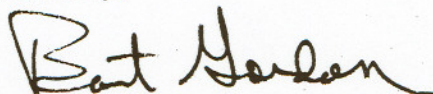
I appreciate your letter responding to my concerns about censorship of scientific findings by NASA public affairs officials. Your letter is clear and unequivocal in your position on the issue and the steps you have initiated to review and improve policies related to promoting the free and open exchange of scientific and technical information.

The extensive discussions you and your top staff have had with me, my Science Committee Staff Director and others reflect your commitment to correct any inappropriate or conflicting policies to the openness you insist on at NASA. Your statement that you, "will not tolerate any policy or action whereby Public Affairs Officers filter, alter, edit, or censor scientific findings and facts" is just the kind of position I had hoped you would adopt. Further, the policy development group you have convened reflects action attached to words.

Given our conversations and the responsible way you are dealing with the allegations spurred on by the Hansen issue, I am confident that you will continue ferreting out the truth, holding wrongdoers accountable and developing new policies to ensure the free, open and uncensored exchange of sound scientific information. It is our desire to closely track your progress. We expect that you will keep the Members of the Committee fully and completely informed. Let's continue the productive dialogue that we've begun.

I look forward to continued discussion on the development of new policies and Agency practices. I only hope that others in top leadership positions throughout the Executive Branch agencies follow your lead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bart Gordon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bart" being more prominent and the last name "Gordon" following in a similar style.

BART GORDON
Ranking Member